Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STOCKH 05098 071310Z

53
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-02

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07

NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 EPA-01 CEQ-01

FEAE-00 DOTE-00 /106 W
---------- 018521
R 071145Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5876
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 5098

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, ETRN, SW
SUBJECT: SWEDISH STANDARDS FOR EMISSION CONTROL COULD
STOP IMPORTS OF U.S.-BUILT AUTOMOBILES

1. SUMMARY. SWEDISH PRESS REPORTED ON OCTOBER 4 THAT NEW SWEDISH EMISSION STANDARDS MAY STOP IMPORTS OF US-BUILT AUTOMOBILES IN 1976. PRESS REPORT MAY BE ALARMIST BUT REPRESENTATIVE OF GENERAL MOTORS HAS CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY THAT SWEDISH TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD HAS NOT YET ACTED ON THEIR REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF IMPORTS OF 1976 MODEL CARS. SWEDISH EMISSION STANDARDS FOR 1976 ARE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS US STANDARDS FOR 1973. BUT SWEDISH GASOLINE STATIONS DO NOT HAVE LEAD-FREE FUEL AND THIS LEADS TO DIFFERENT TEST RESULTS AND DIFFICULTIES IN MEETING
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STOCKH 05098 071310Z

SWEDISH STANDARDS. FOLLOW-UP REPORT WILL BE SENT AFTER

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

EMBASSY HAS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO INVESTIGATE. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO SVENSKA DAGBLADET OF OCTOBER 4, US CARS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY POPULAR IN SWEDEN. NEW SWEDISH EMISSION STANDARDS HOWEVER, MAY STOP IMPORTS IN 1976 BECAUSE STANDARDS RELATING TO CARBON MONOXIDE, NITRIC ACIDS AND IMPERFECTLY BURNED HYDRO-CARBONS ARE BEING TIGHTENED. TWO POINTS MADE WITH RESPECT TO SWEDISH STANDARDS, WHICH ARE SIMILAR TO US 1973 STANDARDS, ARE: (A) SWEDISH STANDARDS ARE "MINIMUM REQUIRED" OF ALL VEHICLES AND NOT THE AVERAGE OF CARDS PRODUCED, AS IS ALLEGED IN CASE OF THE US; AND (B) SWEDISH STATIONS DO NOT SELL LEAD-FREE GASOLINE AND HENCE US CARS USING CATALYTIC CONVERTERS CANNOT MEET SWEDISH EMISSION REQUIREMENTS. MOREOVER, EMISSION TESTS WHICH COST SKR 300,000 - 500,000 ($66,000 - 110,000) FOR EACH MODEL DO NOT NECESSARILY FOLLOW SAME PROCEDURES AS IN US.

3. SWEDISH TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD HAS NOT YET ACTED ON IMPORTERS' APPROVAL REQUESTS FOR US 1976 MODEL CARS BUT GENERAL MOTORS SOURCE WAS HOPEFUL THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH BOARD BY THEIR US ENGINEER - -
WHO WILL BE COMING TO SWEDEN IN NEXT FEW MONTHS -- WILL RESOLVE PROBLEM. IF NOT, SOURCE SAID, NEW STANDARDS WOULD INDEED STOP SALES OF US-BUILT AUTOMOBILES.

4. IMPACT OF EMISSIONS STANDARDS DECISION ON AUTOMOBILE TRADE WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE. GENERAL MOTORS EXPECTS TO SELL ABOUT 1,000 UNITS IN 1976 WHILE FORD, WHICH HAS NOT STRESSED US-BUILT CARS, ESTIMATED THAT PERHAPS 400 MUSTANG MACH I CARS WOULD BE IMPORTED, IF EMISSION STANDARDS COULD BE MET. SWEDISH FIRM, SAAB-ANA, WHICH IS GENERAL AGENT FOR CHRYSLER, HANDLES ABOUT 500 UNITS ANNUALLY. AMERICAN MOTORS HAS BEEN RECENTLY RPOMOTING THE PACER AND THEY ALSO WOULD BE AFFECTED.

5. COMMENTS. THE NEW AUTOMOBILE EMISSION STANDARDS APPLY TO ALL DOMESTIC AND IMPORTED MODELS. SOME FORM OF ACCOMMODATION UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE WORKED OUT FOR IMPORTS BUT, IN THE MEANTIME, THE NEW STANDARDS WILL CREATE UNCERTAINTIES. THE UNAVILABILITY OF LEAD-FREE GAS IN SWEDEN AND THE US USE OF CATALYTIC CONVERTERS ON MANY CARS TO MEET POLLUTION STANDARDS WILL NEED TO BE RESOLVED.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

6. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE PRODUCERS BE ALERTED TO NEW EMISSIONS STANDARDS WHICH WILL AFFECT 1976 AND LATER MODEL CARS.

7. WE WILL SEND FOLLOW-UP REPORT AFTER FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF PROBLEM.
STRAUSZ-HUPE'

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY, STANDARDS, AIR POLLUTION, POLLUTION CONTROL, IMPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STOCKH05098
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750347-0895
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751076/aaaacqjg.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWEDISH STANDARDS FOR EMISSION CONTROL COULD STOP IMPORTS OF U.S.-BUILT AUTOMOBILES
TAGS: ETRD, ETRN, SW, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006